



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PRE-VACCINATION TRAINING PLANNED FOR COUNTY WORKERS**

*Jan. 8, 10 sessions to provide information for workers who volunteer to receive smallpox vaccine*

County workers who are considering volunteering to receive the smallpox vaccine have been invited to attend one of two pre-vaccination training sessions on Jan. 8 and 10, tomorrow and Friday.

The sessions are aimed at the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Response team, and will be taught by Dr. Wilma Wooten, deputy public health officer, and Rose Fox, chief, Public Health Nursing. Wooten and Fox were involved in training sessions in mid-December that were aimed at hospital workers who may volunteer to be part of hospital response teams.

"The sessions are designed to help them decide whether they'd like to be a candidate (for vaccination)," said Wooten. "We will answer their questions about contraindications and side effects of the vaccine."

The Jan. 8 session takes place from 8 to 10 a.m. at 3851 Rosecrans St., San Diego. The Jan. 10 session takes place from 9 to 11 a.m. at the North Coastal Region offices, 1701 Mission Ave., Oceanside. **Members of the media are invited to attend the first hour of either session.**

One hundred and sixty-four hospital and County health workers attended the mid-December sessions and gave high marks to the presentations, which also provided information on the vaccine itself and how to care for the vaccination site.

The County anticipates giving vaccinations to critical health care workers in February, after the Homeland Security Bill, which provides liability protection, takes effect. That bill is expected to become law on Jan. 24.

San Diego County has estimated it will need 3,300 doses of vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention plans to distribute vaccine to states later this month.

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